

Attention FDA

0264 '00 MAY -4 AIO:47

It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions:

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?

Certainly Not! Once you've had an exam/test you shouldn't need another. Hearing doesn't get better, it usually worsens. The test results are based on responses to sound & a lot of responses are delayed and sometimes we imagine we heard a sound. I don't need a test to try out reading glasses, or buy natural herbs, crutches, binders, kneecracks, shoe pads etc.

2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance:

I have had many audiologist examinations that didn't tell me anything I didn't already know. Twice I have purchased their advised instrument, paying as much as 785.00 and have been disappointed in my hearing both times. These exams were lengthy & none close by. Fortunately I am a good driver & not handicapped in any other way.

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

No! The FDA doesn't know about my body or what it needs as well as I do. From my own experiences combatting deafness (gradual decline from a malarial operation at age 7 to now "sure to progress" deafness) at age 77 I see no advantage to having more audiology exams to determine what aid is best. You only need to try one on approval for 2 weeks or better to know if it's right for you. I can do this through mail order whereas I didn't have this option direct from the audiologist.

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

Certainly — just as I would purchase any other aid to see better, smell better, walk better, smell better, sit more comfortably, rest better, talk better, digest and eliminate food better, look & feel better and "other" aids offered through catalogues. My most rewarding hearing aid purchase was my present one — an ~~Pipet~~ ^{HD 53 P} — purchased through Excel in Illinois.

Signed by:

Deely L. King

Date:

3/13/00

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FROM

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HERE IF NEW ADDRESS



150 Years

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